

Senate Resolution 839

By: Senators Fort of the 39th, Tate of the 38th, Jones of the 10th and Reed of the 35th

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot and recognizing September 22-25, 2006, as "Days
2 of Remembrance"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, on September 22, 1906, after a summer of inflammatory newspaper headlines
4 and articles depicting false and exaggerated black-on-white assaults, thousands of white men,
5 including members of the state militia, attacked African Americans in downtown Atlanta;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot continued for four days, with attacks spreading
8 beyond the downtown area and resulting in the massacre of at least 25 black men and
9 women, numerous beatings, serious injuries, invasions and vandalizing of homes and
10 businesses of African Americans, and creating widespread fear among the citizens of
11 Atlanta; and

12 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Race Riot was widely covered in the national and international
13 press; and

14 WHEREAS, these four days left a major and enduring stain on the history of Atlanta and
15 Georgia and on the history of race relations in America; and

16 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Race Riot directly affected such prominent figures as W. E. B.
17 Du Bois, Walter White, and John Wesley Dobbs; and

18 WHEREAS, despite its historical, spiritual, and psychological effect on the people of
19 Atlanta, the Atlanta Race Riot has been largely forgotten by many Americans; and

20 WHEREAS, the centennial of the Atlanta Race Riot offers an opportunity to reconsider the
21 Atlanta Race Riot and its significance, thus contributing to improved human relations; and

1 WHEREAS, the Coalition to Remember the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot was organized in 2004
2 to create public awareness of the riot and its legacy, to facilitate open and ongoing dialogue
3 among diverse communities, and to inspire positive systemic change in Atlanta's race
4 relations; and

5 WHEREAS, the coalition was convened by the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic
6 Site and Southern Truth and Reconciliation, Inc.; and

7 WHEREAS, among its activities, the Coalition will sponsor a symposium and other
8 commemorative events upon the occasion of the actual centennial of the Atlanta Race Riot
9 in September, 2006.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
11 express their deepest sympathy and most solemn regrets to the descendants of the victims of
12 the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, declare September 22-25, 2006, to be "Days of Remembrance"
13 to memorialize those who died as victims of the Atlanta Race Riot, repudiate the racist
14 practices and rhetoric which contributed to the riot, and remember this painful history to
15 ensure that such a tragedy will be neither forgotten nor repeated.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
17 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Coalition to Remember the 1906
18 Atlanta Race Riot.